

PATENT & PATENT LAW

OFFICES,

Established 1853



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HOWSON & SON'S PUBLICATIONS.

I.

A BRIEF INQUIRY INTO THE PRINCIPLES, EFFECTS, AND PRESENT STATE OF THE AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM. By H. & C. Howson.

Third Edition revised and abridged especially for use at the International Patent Congress at Vienna, by the request of the Hon. J. M. Thacher, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, and Representative of the United States in the said Congress.

II.

(THE SAME WORK IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.)

III.

ANSWERS OF HOWSON & SON TO QUESTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES RELATIVE TO PATENTS.

IV.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO, AND COST OF PROCURING, FOREIGN PATENTS AT HOWSON'S PATENT OFFICES.

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FACTS RELATING TO PATENTS. No. 1.

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U.S. PATENT CIRCULAR,

EXPLAINING THE

SYSTEM OF PRACTICE

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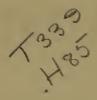
U.S. AND FOREIGN PATENT OFFICES,

119 SOUTH FOURTH ST., PHILADELPHIA,

605 SEVENTH ST., WASHINGTON, D. C.

CONTAINING

BRIEF HINTS TO INVENTORS, BASED UPON OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.



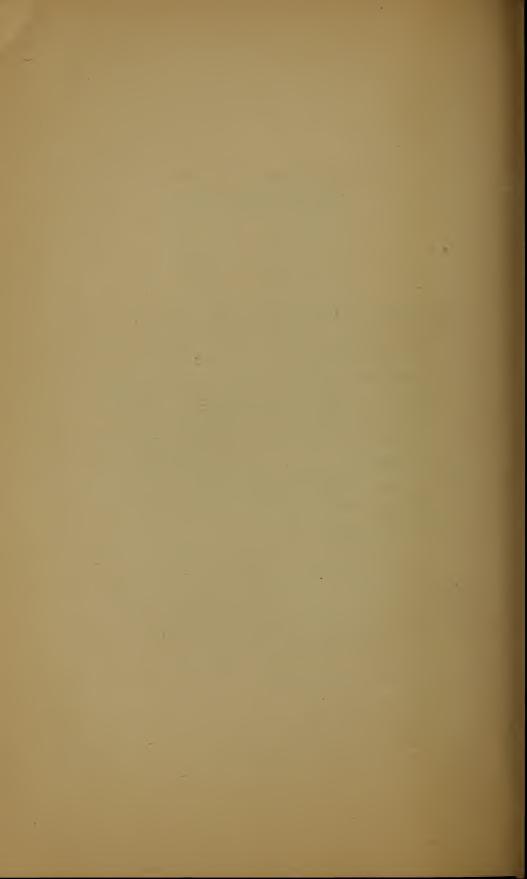
Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1873,

By HOWSON & SON,

In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

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INTRODUCTION.

WE publish this new business pamphlet at a time when our house has entered upon the twentieth year of its existence, so that inventors may receive our remarks as being indorsed by the experience of a long and active career in the profession.

Not that we intend to inflict upon our readers a mass of "advice." Unfortunately for its own best interests, the inventive community has for many years been favored, through the circulars of patent attorneys, with an endless amount and variety of so-called "advice."

Thus mystified and misled as to the principles upon which patent property is founded, inventors have been induced to spend unprofitably much money, time, and labor.

What we have to say in the way of advice to them, may be thus briefly summed up: "Render yourselves as familiar as you can with the general principles governing patent property and with the practice of the Patent Office."

Much has been done within the last few years by the various publications of the Patent Office to place within the reach of inventors a knowledge of the office practice.

An attorney, if reliable and competent, so far from objecting to, will desire the possession of this knowledge by his clients; for the sound instincts of such a man will tell him that the more familiar they are with patent matters, the better clients they will be, and the more appreciative of his services. Practitioners—and these are not wanting—who would object to the Patent Office publications that they try to teach inventors too much, at once pay these publications the highest possible compliment, and justify the suspicion that they regard their business as depending upon the ignorance of their clients.

When in this circular we find occasion to refer to Patent Office practice, or to give a few brief hints to inventors, we shall base our remarks upon extracts from Official Documents.

In addition to the information to be derived by inventors from valuable official publications, it is advisable that they should become familiar with the principles which underlie patent property in this country, so that they may be aware of their true position before the public and the courts, as patentees.

During a long practice we found that inventors invariably asked the same questions on this subject; hence, two years ago, we commenced the preparation of a pamphlet giving general information as to the principle, effect, and present state of the American patent system, mainly with the view of saving the time heretofore consumed in repeatedly answering the same questions. The work, however, grew to larger dimensions than was originally contemplated, and was published under the title of "The American Patent System."

We should not have ventured to allude to this work, had it not been for the high official recommendation which it has received, as indicated by the following correspondence which constitutes the preface of the third abridged edition of the work.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18th, 1873.

Messrs. H. & C. HOWSON,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen: I have been much pleased with your book entitled "The American Patent System."

As a concise statement of principles underlying the grant of patent protection, and a brief exposition of the American patent system, it is valuable.

In the discharge of my duties as representative of the United States in the International Patent Congress, at Vienna, I should be glad to use some portions of your treatise.

Can you, consistently with your personal interests, revise and condense your essay, and publish for this purpose a small pamphlet edition in the German language, which is the official language of the Congress?

If so you will greatly oblige me, and at the same time, as I believe, serve the interests of American inventors and patentees.

Very respectfully yours,

J. M. THACHER,

Assistant Commissioner of Patents.

It will be unnecessary to say that we complied with this flattering request with all promptitude, and that we at once prepared an abridged edition of the work, both in German and English, Mr. Thacher being furnished with copies prior to his departure for Vienna.

We are prepared to furnish gratuitously, to clients and others interested in patent matters, copies of this abridged edition of "The American Patent System," believing that its perusal in

connection with the official publications alluded to will result in rendering inventors familiar with their true status before the Patent Office as applicants for patents, and before the public and the courts as patentees.

The object of the present pamphlet is fourfold:

First. To explain our mode of doing business, and to set forth our system of charges, our reasons for that system, and the duties we undertake for the charges, so fully and clearly that no misunderstanding can occur.

Second. To inform inventors and others interested in patents that the prosecution of litigated cases before the courts and the Patent Office is one of the special branches of our profession.

Third. To show that we possess the most ample facilities for performing effectually and promptly all the duties we undertake, and

Fourth. To present satisfactory evidence that we have the professional experience and ability to perform such duties.

As to the first object of our pamphlet, we have deemed it necessary, in order to fully explain our mode of doing business, to treat the subject under the heads of "Preliminary Examinations," "Specifications and Claims," "Prosecution of Applications," at considerable length, with the view of giving such full reasons for the practice we have adopted, as inventors have a right to demand, and it will be found that these reasons are invariably based on official documents.

We also devote some space to the subject of Reissues, Caveats, Design Patents, and Trade-marks, and have given explicit information on the subject of fees.

With the view of presenting satisfactory proof that we have the experience and facilities for doing thoroughly what we undertake to do, we have deemed it necessary to give a brief description of our two establishments and their surroundings, to show that our facilities for transacting both the patent soliciting and legal branches of our profession are second to none in this country.

In Section 131 of the Rules and Practice of the Patent Office, inventors are told that "as the value of patents depends largely upon the careful preparation of the specifications and claims, the assistance of competent counsel will in most cases be of advantage to the applicant, but the value of their service will be proportioned to their skill and honesty." They are further cautioned that "so many persons have entered this profession of late years without experience, that too much care cannot be exercised in the selection of a competent man."

It is in no self-laudatory spirit, but simply to give new clients that satisfaction which they are thus officially recommended to require, as to the competency of those whom they would employ, that we have published in this pamphlet certificates of different Commissioners of patents, and a list of manufacturers and inventors (well known and accessible to inquirers), for whom we have prosecuted and continue to prosecute patent business, and to whom we refer by permission.

These we present as evidences of our standing before the Patent Office and among patentees.

Further than this, in speaking of the legal branch of our profession, we give a list of some of the contested cases in which we have been successfully engaged. Our reasons for this will be apparent to those experienced inventors and patentees who have learned how fashionable it has become for inexperienced practitioners, who never conducted a litigated case, to talk glibly of their experience and skill in such cases.

In conclusion we may refer to the fact that our senior partner is a practical engineer and machinist, and has been for twenty-five years connected with patent matters, for the last twenty as a solicitor of patents in this city, while our junior is a member of the bar, and has during the past seven years been engaged in many patent contests before the Patent Office and the Courts.

H. & C. HOWSON.

PHILADELPHIA, November 1, 1873.

SYSTEM OF PRACTICE

AT

HOWSONS' PATENT OFFICES.

FEES.

INEXPERIENCED inventors have been taught, by advertisements and by circulars scattered over the country, that the first question to be asked is, "Can I obtain a patent?" and the second, "What will it cost?" The facility with which patents can be obtained is one of the prevailing boasts in these circulars, and as to cost some of the advertisers offer their services at a value which simply shows how little they are in demand.

Thanks to the official caution against practitioners of this class, inventors are gradually becoming aware that hosts of patents are granted which are dear at any price, and that good patents cannot be obtained without the exercise of well-paid skill, backed by experience.

The first question which an inventor should ask himself is, not "Can I obtain a patent?" but "What sort of a patent can I obtain?" (See article on Preliminary Examinations.) The question of cost should be based on the answer to this question. Having determined that there is a good opportunity of procuring a sound patent, the inventor must then decide whether he will run the risk of having the opportunity thrown away, by placing the duty of procuring the patent in the hands of those whose system of charges is a certain indication of a want of patronage, which is equivalent to a want of experience and public confidence.

The fees charged at these offices, and the services to be rendered therefor, and mode of payment, were decided upon in 1860, and have been adhered to since.

SYSTEM OF CHARGES AT HOWSONS' PATENT OFFICES.

\$5, payable in advance, but deducted from fees	f for application, if made.
Preliminary examination, including report, sketches	of references, &c.

Making ordinary applications for Patents, including preliminary examination, specification, drawing, cost of oath, packing, express charges, correspondence, &c.; also, prosecution of application before United States Patent Office, and appeals, when necessary; providing the Government appeal fees are paid and expenses of printing, &c.

\$40, \$45, or \$50, according to the nature of the invention. Payment, with first Government fee of \$15, due on the completion of the papers, after they have been approved of by the applicant, and before they are forwarded to Washington.

\$20 demanded by Government before it will issue the Patent. Second Government fee, . .

NOTE.—It will be seen from the above that the total cost of procuring a Patent at these offices is either \$75, \$80, or \$85. Occasionally an invention of very complex character may demand larger fees, but this is of rare occurrence. Payment of second Government fee, and issue of Patent may be delayed six months, but prompt payment is advised, so as to prevent the arrest of the Patent by interfering applications. Ordinary application for reissue of invalid Patent, &c., with prosecution of application, and other duties including preliminary searches, specification, drawing, as in the case of original applications.

\$50 or \$60, according to the nature of the case. Payment, together with the Government fee of \$30, due on completion of papers, and before they are filed.

Filing caveat, including drawings, specifications, &c. | fee of \$10, prior to filing the papers.

\$12, \$15, or \$20, due with the Government

tions, drawings, and other items, same as in applica-Application for a Design Patent, including specification for ordinary patents.

ment fee, due on completion of papers, and prior \$15, \$20, or \$25; payment with Governto filing same. Norr.—A deduction from the above fees will be made when a number of Design Patents for generically similar subjects are required. The Government fees for Design Patents are, for three and a half years, \$10; for seven years, \$15; for fourteen

Making application for registration of trade-marks, including drawings, specifications, &c., and services same as in making applications for patents.

\$15 payment due, with the Government fee of \$25, when the papers are complete, and before they are filed.

for a Patent when made on printed form.

Ordinary assignments to accompany an application \ \$2, including Government fee of \$1 for recording. There are cases of a very intricate character which cannot be classed under the head of ordinary applications to which the foregoing list relates. Instances occur in which a series of patents are demanded, with a view of protecting some especial branch of industry; or the retention of our services in connection with a special manufacture or class of articles may be required; or our personal services at Washington for several days on some special case may be demanded.

Whenever contingencies arise demanding especial and exclusive services, an estimate of the probable cost will always be given, for it is the rule at these offices never to keep clients in the dark as to the expenses which they may have to incur.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

Inventors are naturally sanguine and loth to believe that their discoveries have been anticipated, hence they are apt to seek the protection of the Patent Office too hastily, and to incur expenses which prudence might have spared them.

It would be impossible to estimate the money loss to inventors from rejected applications, but it must reach a very large sum. The loss to applicants for patents cannot be estimated, however, from the number of rejected applications alone. The further question arises as to how many patents granted are valueless, either in a mercantile or practical point of view, or as regards the strength and scope of the claims.

A very small amount of novelty and much less of utility in an invention will suffice to warrant a patent; and this must be the case, or the Patent Office must degenerate into an arbitrary, inquisitorial institution. The unavoidable consequence is, a large number of worthless patents, and of these worthless patents many are accepted by the inventors, with the full knowledge of their worthlessness, their pride suggesting the procuring some sort of a patent after all the pains they have taken, but by far the larger number are received in total ignorance on the part of the patentees, as to the scope and validity of the deed.

This is for the most part attributable to the contingent fee practice so severely denounced in the Report of 1869, by Commissioner Fisher, who alludes to these contingent fee men as "those who care for nothing but to give their clients something called a patent, that they may secure their own fee, and who have in too many instances, proved a curse; to get rid of their clients and trouble, they have sometimes been content to take less than they were entitled to, while in many cases, they have with much self-laudation presented them with shadows when the substance was beyond their reach." The mischief does not end with the simple grant of these shadowy patents. Frequently the patentees, in total ignorance of the true scope of the deeds incur expenses, and neglect their legitimate business, only to have all their hopes destroyed by the discovery that the patent is subservient to another, or that its claims have no strength to support a monopoly.

It will be seen, therefore, that it is of vital importance for an inventor to ascertain in advance of an application, not only whether he can obtain a patent, but whether he can procure one with some substance in it.

The system adopted by the no patent, no pay men, the contingent fee men, above referred to, is a temptation to inventors, and is in many cases, no doubt, intended to tempt them rashly and inconsiderately to apply for patents. It is a sort of lottery system, the exponents of which say to the inventor, Send us the model, pay the government fee and cost of drawings, and if we don't get your patent we will charge nothing.

In the first place the ticket for this lottery is an expensive one. There is the government fee of \$15, and the cost of the model and drawing before the application can be filed. The inventor must expend perhaps \$30 to \$40, sometimes much more, before he is in a position to await his chances, and what are his chances? The attorney's fee depends upon the grant of a patent, and rather than lose the fee, he is ready, as the Commissioner says, to accept less than he is entitled to, or to procure the shadow when the substance is beyond his reach.

It is quite possible, of course, that the attorney may have honesty of purpose and strength of mind enough to resist this natural temptation, and may so far regard repute as to forego the prospective fee rather than secure it by presenting his client with a worthless patent. But it is sufficient to condemn the contingent fee system in the minds as well of fair-dealing and competent solicitors as of thoughtful inventors, that it naturally breeds this temptation, that its very theory is to pay the attorney, not for his time, services, and labor in properly advising and aiding his clients, but only for securing a patent, as though that were his sole duty.

Let the inventor reflect that the true question to be solved in his case is not "Can I obtain a patent?" but "Can I obtain a substantial patent?" and he will at once see the fallacy and danger of a system of soliciting which persistently brings forward the former question to the utter exclusion of the latter.

It has been our practice, from the establishment of this office in 1853, to invite inventors to consult us as soon as they have conceived what they suppose to be an invention. We do not require a model to illustrate the invention; a simple sketch or even an explanation given verbally, or in writing, will in many cases suffice to enable us to understand it.

In many cases we are enabled to give from memory a reference which will show the invention to have been anticipated. Our senior partner has been engaged in mechanical and scientific pursuits for over thirty-five years, and has necessarily acquired a fund of information relating to the industrial arts, and this information he is ready to draw upon whenever he is consulted by an inventor, and to advise the latter without charge. Scarcely a day elapses without presenting the opportunity of advising an inventor not to incur expense in developing his invention.

While we may in many cases be able to pronounce an invention to be old, and to communicate our opinion, backed by references, without charge, no attorney, whatever his experience may have been, can declare at once, and without investigation, in favor of the novelty of an invention. Whenever we have a doubt on this subject we invariably recommend a preliminary examination, with the view of determining not only whether there is a probability of securing a patent, but whether a patent with some substance in it can be procured.

One of our main objects in establishing a branch office in Washington in 1867 was to prosecute effectually this duty of making preliminary examinations, which we accomplish by an investigation of the patented records of the Patent Office. For this duty we charge a fee of five dollars, which sum will be deducted from the agency fees in making the application for a patent.

Inventors should distinctly understand what is meant by this preliminary examination. It does not mean a thorough investigation of the prior state of the art to which the invention relates, for this would in many cases involve the labor of days, and in some instances, of weeks, in the perusal of foreign records, and a fee of five dollars would be totally inadequate for such services. The search is made with the view of ascertaining approximately whether the alleged invention has been the subject of a patent in the United States.

Of late years the difficulties in the way of making these searches have been increased; models are frequently misplaced, and access to the drawings has been recently forbidden, and even these are often out of place. It is gratifying to know, however, that the printing of copies of drawings of patented inventions is being proceeded with, and that eventually better facilities will exist for the prosecution of these researches.

While a preliminary examination therefore must necessarily be comparatively superficial, as regards the prior state of the art, and does not guarantee a patent, it is, with rare exceptions, the means of procuring reliable information relating to prior patents, and of saving much expense in the preparation of models, and in fees for making applications, and much loss of time, and harassment of mind.

The exercise of due caution in applying for patents has always been characteristic of this establishment, the present proportions of which may be attributed in a great measure to the strict observance of this rule.

APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS.

When it has been determined to apply for a patent we at once proceed to prepare the necessary drawings, for which we have especial facilities, as will be found by referring to another portion of the pamphlet; these drawings being made in the office by trained draughtsmen under the instructions and superintendence of the head of the firm. The model will also be made under directions received from this office, if the applicant has no proper facilities for procuring its manufacture.

The specifications are invariably prepared or revised by the head of the firm, who, in all cases, attends to the framing of the claims. It is advisable in most cases for an inventor to have a personal interview and consultation with our senior partner, preparatory to the preparation of the specification; or when this is not convenient, the correspondence of the inventor with the office should be of a very explicit character, so that his wishes may be complied with.

In very intricate cases, or in those involving legal difficulties demanding lengthened consultations and research, the head of the firm will be ready to make an appointment for consultation at his residence in the afternoon or evening, that is between four and six in the afternoon, or between eight and ten in the evening, but in no case can such special consultations be had without previous appointment.

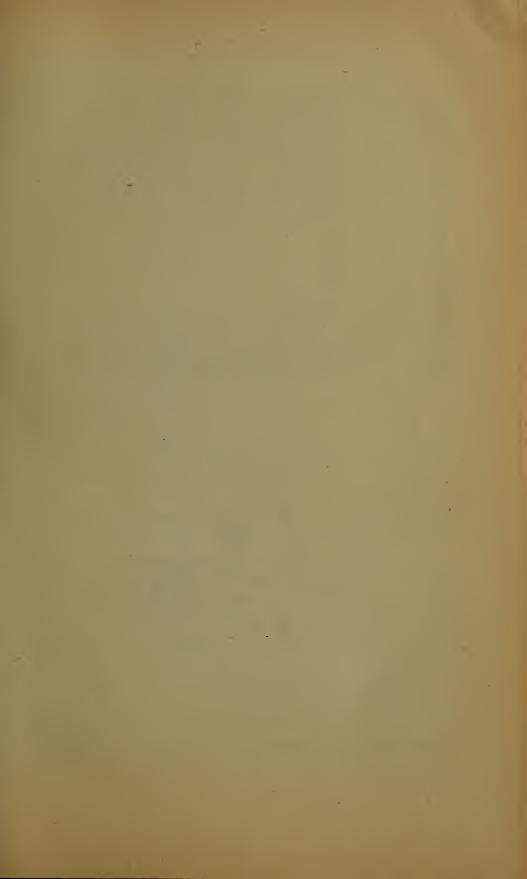
Whenever there is special reason for the hasty filing of an application, it will be attended to at once, and can in many cases be completed within twenty-four hours, providing the model be furnished.

SPECIFICATIONS AND CLAIMS.

This is a most important subject for the consideration of inventors, and should be dwelt upon fully and succinctly in the business pamphlet of a patent solicitor.

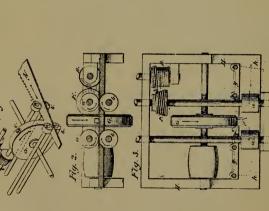
In introducing the subject we cannot do better, by way of enforcing our views, than by inserting the following section, No. 131, of the last edition of the Rules and Practice of the Patent Office (July, 1873).

"As the value of patents depends largely upon the careful preparation of the specifications and claims, the assistance of competent counsel will in most cases be of advantage to the applicant, but the value of their services will be proportioned to their



improvement in Machines for Cutting Teeth of Saws.

No. 133,190 Patented Nov. 19, 1872.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

SAMUEL BEVAN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR CUTTING TEETH OF SAWS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 133,190, dated November 19, 1872.

To all schow it may concern:
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Philadelphia, Pensylvania, lave invented a
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I claim as my invention—
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Witnesses: Wm. A. Steel, H. HOWSOM. skill and honesty. So many persons have entered the profession of late years without experience that too much care cannot be exercised in the selection of a competent man. The office cannot assume responsibility for the acts of attorneys, nor can it assist applicants in making a selection."

The foregoing official caution to inventors has been demanded by the multitude of defective specifications and worthless claims which find their way to the Patent Office.

However novel and useful an invention may be, its value in a commercial point of view will depend upon the character of the patent in which the invention is described and claimed; hence, an inventor's success will depend, as the Commissioner says, upon the skill and honesty of the attorney who prepares the specification.

There is but one way of testing the professed "skill and honesty" of a patent solicitor, and that is by demanding from him a proof of his experience and success, of his good standing before the Patent Office, and of the estimation in which he is held by prominent and successful inventors and those largely interested in patents; and the solicitor who cannot, in his circulars and pamphlets, present satisfactory proofs upon these points, must necessarily be looked upon with suspicion. It is not only the right of an inventor, but a duty which he owes to himself, to demand such proofs; and it is equally the duty of the attorney to have at hand ample evidence to meet the demand.

As a further proof of the care and judgment exercised at these offices in the preparation of specifications, we may be permitted to refer to the annexed photo-lithograph of a patent, the specification and drawing of which were prepared by the head of this establishment, and which has been selected by the Hon. Commissioner of Patents, for illustration in the last edition of the Rules and Practice of the Patent Office, as an example for the guidance of attorneys and inventors. The style of specification prepared at these offices, and thus officially commended, is the result of the most careful consideration of the legal requirements of such documents. The object aimed at was the abolition of the old rambling, verbose, and

disjointed style of specification which had prevailed, and which, easy to write and difficult to understand, was obnoxious to the Patent Office and to the courts, and afforded doubtful protection to patentees. The brief and concise style of specification of which we give the official example, possesses special advantages to inventors, for its very succinctness requires much greater care, forethought, and circumspection, and a more thorough knowledge of the invention on which it is brought to bear, than the old wandering style, which presented every opportunity for the careless weaving together of a lot of unmeaning sentences, and for covering up the ignorance of incompetent attorneys.

Since the opening of this establishment, under its present head in 1853, its continually increasing prosperity may be attributed, in great degree, to the careful manner in which the preparation of specifications has always been attended to.

In continuing this course, we shall in all cases adopt the above style of specification, with such particular modifications, of course, as the different peculiarities of different inventions may require.

PROSECUTION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS.

We consider it our duty to be very explicit also in our remarks on this important subject. To clearly explain our mode of prosecuting applications it will be necessary to compare it with some of the practices of other attorneys, in doing which we do not wish to be understood as arrogating to ourselves superior attainments, for we fully recognize the fact that there are in the profession many gentlemen of the greatest ability, of lengthened experience, and of the highest standing, and these gentlemen will, we feel confident, support our views, as will also the officers of the Patent Office.

Much misunderstanding exists as to the mode of doing business in the Patent Office. A supposition, for instance, prevails to some extent that special privileges and favoritism are to be found in the office, and this supposition is fostered by a class of agents who would attack the pockets of their clients, under the pretence of exercising special influences, enabling them to obtain patents of a better quality and more quickly than others can procure them.

The Commissioner has found it necessary to caution inventors on this subject in the following language.

"It will be a safe rule to mistrust those attorneys who boast of the possession of special and peculiar facilities IN THE OFFICE for procuring patents in shorter time or with more extended claims than others."

There must, of course, always be some attorneys with more influence than others, but it is influence based on the respect which ability and fair dealing with the office always command and not the crooked influence which is whispered into the ears of confiding inventors by designing attorneys, whose underhand tricks soon become known in the Patent Office, and who sink to the level of suspected practitioners.

It has been, and continues to be, a common practice with solicitors to consider their duties at an end when an application for a patent has been filed, and to consider every step in the prosecution of an application as an additional duty which demands an additional fee, a practice which we discarded many years ago to adopt that of charging what we consider an adequate fee in the first instance, and of prosecuting the application to the end as a part of the duty for which the fee was paid.

It is important for every applicant for a patent to become familiar with the routine of the Patent Office, in order that he may form a true estimate of the manner in which his application should be prosecuted with due regard to his own interests. All we need say on the subject here is, that every application for a patent is submitted, in the first instance, to the primary examiner in charge of the class to which the invention relates; that he will allow the case and permit the patent to issue if the papers are prepared in accordance with the rules of the office, and if the claims presented are for new inventions; that he will reject or partially reject, if the whole or part of the invention as claimed is not new; that if the applicant insists upon the novelty of his invention he can

be reheard by the same primary examiner, either on the original or on amended specification and claims; that if the examiner persists in his adverse judgment, the applicant can, on payment of a fee of \$10, appeal to the Board of Examiners-in-Chief, and thence, if the decision be still adverse, to the Commissioner of Patents in person, on payment of an additional fee of \$20, and thence to the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Appeals may also be made directly from the Primary Examiner to the Commissioner without an additional fee, on interlocutory questions relating to Patent Office practice.

It is the sworn duty of an examiner to prevent as far as lies in his power the issue of a patent for anything which is already the property of the public or of a prior patentee; on the other hand, the applicant for a patent is actuated by the desire to procure the most comprehensive monopoly, and guided by his own feelings cannot always look with patience on an examiner's objections; hence there must always be a species of antagonism between applicants for patents and examiners.

But there can be no reason why this antagonism should not be of the most amicable character; there are no officers of the Government more accessible, and more ready to listen to explanations than the examiners of the Patent Office.

Occasionally we may find an examiner whose main characteristics are that obstinacy and self-importance which indicate ignorance, but as a body they are gentlemen well qualified for their positions.

We frequently hear of attacks upon the examiners of the Patent Office. The very duties which they have to perform lay them open to such attacks; there is the disappointed inventor of something old on the one hand, or the attorney baulked of a substantial contingent fee on the other hand, by the adverse action of an examiner, who has to encounter the public censure of both without the opportunity of replying. A brief examination of the files of the Patent Office will show that nine-tenths of the difficulties which applicants for patents meet with are attributable not to the examiners, but to the

wretched character of the papers, which it is their duty to peruse and criticize.

Different attorneys adopt different modes of prosecuting and of charging for prosecuting applications for patents; there are competent attorneys who perform their duty with admirable vigor and good judgment, there are others again who, to use the words of Commissioner Fisher, in his official report to Congress for 1869, "Are more desirous of obtaining a patent of any kind and by any means than they are of obtaining one which shall be of any value to their clients, who care for nothing but to give their clients something called a patent, that they may secure their own fee and to get rid of their clients and of trouble, are content to take less than they are entitled to." There are timid attorneys again, with the best intentions, but without the necessary experience or facilities for prosecuting applications, or who fear they will incur the displeasure of examiners by resisting their views; whereas the attorney who is thoroughly familiar with his case, and after the mature consideration of all its points, persists in grounds he has taken always commands the respect of the office, providing he exhibits the proper ability and performs his duties with proper courtesy.

With these prefatory remarks, we will proceed to explain our own mode of prosecuting applications for patents before the Patent Office, so that clients may be made aware of the exact duties we have to perform for the fees originally paid.

After an application has been filed through these offices, the first paper which the applicant will receive will be the official acknowledgment of the receipt of the necessary papers and fees, he will then know that his case is properly before the Patent Office. Much misunderstanding exists as to the lapse of time between the filing of an application and official action on the same. One inventor may find his case acted on in three or four days after the filing of his application, while his neighbor may become dissatisfied because he has to wait as many weeks for an action. The reason of this is simply because the two applications are for inventions appertaining to different classes, in charge of different examiners, one of whom may, owing to a press of business, be somewhat behindhand with his work.

Some accident, as the loss of a paper, misplacing of a model, &c., may delay action. It is one of the duties of the superintendent of our branch office in Washington to carefully provide against such accidents.

Should the application be favorably considered, the fact is at once communicated to us by telegraph from our Washington office, and the information telegraphed to the applicant, who is thus made aware of the decision within a few hours after it has been rendered.

In two or three days after this the applicant will receive an official announcement of the allowance of his patent, when he can pay us the second Government fees at once, so that the patent may issue in about three weeks, or the applicant may have reason for keeping his allowed case in the secret archives of the Patent Office; as, for instance, when he desires to procure foreign patents before his invention is published in this country, in which case he has simply to delay the payment of the second fees, but this delay must not exceed six months. We always advise the payment of the second fees into the Patent Office as promptly as possible, so as to prevent the possibility of any such obstacles to the issue as the filing of an interfering application.

In many cases an examiner may object to some part of the specification; he may ask a more explicit description of some part, or a trifling alteration of the drawings may be required, or a slight modification of the claims. It is the practice with us to comply promptly with such official requests, providing we consider them reasonable, and providing the alterations demanded have no tendency to impair the patent when granted.

Our Washington offices enable us to perform these duties without delay. In many cases an examiner's objections may be removed by a verbal explanation, to make which, the Superintendent of our Washington office is always at hand.

When an application for a patent, however, is rejected on reference to a prior patent, or to the publication of a prior invention, more or less delay in the prosecution of the case must necessarily take place.

The rejection of an application on such grounds is a far more serious matter to the applicant than inventors have been taught to consider it. Let an applicant, in his haste to secure a patent of some kind, acquiesce unnecessarily in the decision of the office, content himself with a restricted claim, and the value of his patent is diminished; by the very act of carelessly admitting the pertinency of the reference he may voluntarily place his patent in subordination to a prior patent.

Careless action at this juncture may cast a taint on a patent which will never leave it, the taint consisting of the evidence of hasty and unadvised action which appears in the papers on file. These papers are essentially a part of the patent, for a patentee can hardly expect to negotiate a sale without an investigation by the purchaser, or his attorney, of all the papers on file, which afford a history of the progress of the case through the Patent Office.

Whenever an application filed through these offices is rejected on reference to prior inventions, we consider it our first duty to become familiar with these references, which are obtained from the Patent Office through our branch office, or from our library here; and these references are submitted to the head of this firm, who has had twenty-five years experience in patent matters, and to the applicant if he desires it.

The exact bearing of the references is carefully considered, and future dealings with the Patent Office decided upon. In many cases rejections arise through misapprehension of the examiner, whose objections can be removed by the filing of proper explanatory papers which can work no injury to the patent when granted; in other instances, the examiner will be correct in his opinion, and then it becomes our duty to determine, in conjunction with the applicant, if he wishes it, what claims should be withdrawn or what amendments made to secure to him all that he is entitled to.

It should be understood that throughout the prosecution of applications we forward to the applicant copies of all official papers received in his case, so that he may be as well aware as we are what his status is before the Patent Office, and what his status will be before the public when his patent is granted.

Examiners make no pretence to infallibility; on the contrary, no officers of any government are more willing to entertain arguments carefully prepared with the view of proving that they erred in judgment.

Two things may look very much alike, and yet be totally different in points concerning which an examiner has not so good an opportunity of forming a correct opinion, as the applicant or his attorney.

In such cases we always take pains to elucidate the subject under discussion. But it must not be forgotten that every examiner has not only a right to his opinion, but is paid for it by the Government, and that if he persists in rejecting an application, his persistency should be treated with respect. Whenever we have exhausted our efforts to induce an examiner to believe that he may have erred in judgment, and we believe our own views to be correct, we recommend an appeal to the Board of Examiners-in-Chief, which appeal we will prosecute in all ordinary cases without any additional fee, providing the Government appeal fee of \$10 be paid.

Some very nice points may arise in prosecuting an application for a patent which may demand an appeal to the Commissioner in person or to the Court, but such cases are very rare. It is very seldom indeed, that an inventor's rights, if properly regarded by his attorney, fail to be obtained by an appeal to the Board; in fact, the most liberal opportunity is afforded by the Government for an inventor to secure what he is entitled to, and if he fails in his object, he has probably no one to blame but himself or his attorney.

DEFECTIVE AND MISMANAGED APPLICATIONS.

The prosecution of defective applications filed by, and rejected in the hands of other solicitors, has been, and continues to be a prominent feature of our business.

Instructions to prosecute what may be termed second-hand applications have recently become so numerous, that with every disposition to act liberally to those who have been the victims of bad advice or bad management, we have been compelled to adopt the following practice in all such cases.

With the power of attorney authorizing us to act, we require \$10 for making a preliminary examination of the papers on file, so that we can advise the applicant as to whether there is a fair prospect of obtaining a substantial patent.

When it has been determined to continue the prosecution of the application or to file a new one in its place, the same fees will be charged as in making an original application; the \$10 paid for the preliminary examination being deducted. Cases of this class are much more difficult to deal with than original applications, the papers being frequently of such a defective character that their total abandonment becomes necessary, and in many instances the applications have been prosecuted with such clumsiness, and with so little regard to the applicant's interests, as to increase the difficulties, hence, the above rule, from which we may, however, occasionally depart, in instances of great hardship to which inventors may have been subjected.

REISSUE OF INVALID PATENTS.

A liberal provision peculiar to our law is that allowing the surrender of a patent, which by reason of a defective specification or insufficient claims is inoperative and invalid, and the taking of a new patent upon an amended specification.

The worst enemies of true inventors are those parasites who totally wanting in originality, devote their little brains to devising schemes for availing themselves of the original thoughts of others. The profession of these men is very forcibly expressed as that of "getting around patents." They have quite a keen eye for any weak spots in a patent, and just sufficient petty ingenuity to take advantage of them.

So long as inventors look upon the obtaining of patents as a trifling duty, to be performed by any one who professes to perform it; so long as they encourage men willing to procure patents on any terms, regardless of their strength and validity, so long will these pirates, and the attorneys who are sufficiently unscrupulous to aid and encourage them, flourish. The law relating to the reissue of patents is a merciful one for the inventor who has fallen into the hands of careless

attorneys, and has obtained the mere shadow of a patent, when by the display of proper ability he could have obtained one with some substance, for he can remedy his patent by a reissue, not, however, without incurring risks, to which we shall presently allude, and which could have been obviated by a proper prosecution of the original application.

But the privilege of reissuing has been the subject of much misunderstanding, and until of late years was constantly abused. It was the favorite resource of those who wished to monopolize some entire field of invention, and with whom a reissue meant an expansion of claim to suit circumstances; a means not of securing their own rights, but of undermining the rights of others.

This was practiced to such an extent that reissued patents came to be looked upon by the Courts with suspicion and disfavor, and it was at last found necessary to adopt in the law and in the rules of the Patent Office, provisions calculated to restrain the exercise of this power of reissue.

These restrictions, while serving the ends of justice, have necessarily been of such a kind that they are at times serious and vexatious obstacles to the obtaining of reissues for legitimate purposes.

It is quite a common thing for attorneys who wish to save themselves trouble, or to secure a contingent fee, to advise clients who have a little difficulty in obtaining the claims they desire, to accept any sort of a claim so as to get a patent, and then reissue the latter when it becomes valuable. More wretchedly bad advice than this cannot be conceived. What can an inventor do with a bad patent? Its very weakness will keep off purchasers, and encourage pirates to invade his rights, and file applications for patents for imitations, carefully contrived to evade the terms of the claims, and when the applicant goes to the expense of a reissue, his application is met by those of new claimants with whom an interference may be declared, so that he must pass through a course of most vexatious and costly litigation before his rights are secured.

There are other restrictions and particulars relating to reissues, allusions to which will be found in "Howson's Ameri-

can Patent System," under the head of Remedies for Defective Patents, page 37.

The only way for an inventor to avoid the difficulties and expense of a reissue, is to take care in making his original application to so word the specifications and claims, and to so persist in what he considers his rights, in prosecuting the application, that his patent will not require a reissue. Let him by all means avoid during the prosecution of the application the temptation to accept less than he is entitled to, in his impatience to secure a patent.

The procuring of reissued patents has for many years been a specialty at these offices. It is a duty which demands much care and circumspection, and is attended with more difficulties than ordinary applications for patents.

This is attributable partly to the wretchedly mutilated

character of many of the patents which have to be reissued, and partly to the extra exertions demanded in prosecuting applications for reissues in the Patent Office, for the law has been abused to such an extent, that a prejudice not easily removed exists in the Patent Office against such applications.

Our charges for applying for reissues are \$50 or \$60, accord-

ing to the nature of the case, payment, with the first Government fee (\$30), being due prior to forwarding the papers to Washington. As in applications for patents we prosecute these cases, when they are of an ordinary character, through different stages without any extra fee for our services, the applicant, in case appeals become necessary, paying the Government fees and actual expenses, such as printing, &c., when required.

Cases of extraordinary difficulty demanding the presence of

the head of the office for several days at Washington, may occur, and in some instances, a series of patents relating to one branch of industry may have to be reissued, and much research into the prior state of the art may be required before the proper proceedings can be determined upon.

In such cases special arrangements will be made with clients as regards cost and mode of payment.

In by far the greater number of cases, however, the cost of reissued patents at these offices, including the Government fees, does not exceed \$90.

PATENTS FOR DESIGNS.

It should be understood that patents of this class are entirely distinct from ordinary patents. The latter relate to new machines, devices, manufactures, and compositions of matter; while patents for designs relate to shape, configuration, and ornamentation.

Artists, designers, and inventors can procure patents for designs, for three and one-half, seven, or fourteen years, at their option; the Government fee for the first being \$10, for the second, \$15, and for the third, \$30.

No model is required for patents of this class. The drawing, however, should be very complete, and the specifications full and clear, and prepared with as much care as those of ordinary patents.

Our charges for design patents are \$15, or \$20, or \$25, according to the character of the design, the fee rarely exceeds \$20; and when a number of design patents relating to objects of the same generic character, as, for instance, a series of fabrics, are required, a deduction will be made from the lowest fee above given.

CAVEATS.

A caveat is a description (accompanied when practicable, with drawings) filed in the secret archives of the Patent Office, and setting forth concisely and clearly, some improvement upon which the inventor desires time to experiment with a view to perfecting it, before applying for letters-patent. A caveator is entitled to notice if any application be made for letters-patent for a like invention, at any time within a year from the date at which his caveat is filed. He is not, however, entitled to notice of any pending application which may have been filed before the filing of his caveat, nor of any application which may be filed after the expiration of one year from the filing of his caveat, unless the latter shall have been renewed for another year by the payment of a second caveat fee. A caveat may be thus renewed from year to year by the annual payment of a caveat fee.

Only the caveator, or persons authorized by him, are allowed access to, or copies of the caveat papers.

None but citizens of the United States, or aliens who have resided here for one year, and have made oath of their intention to become citizens, can file a caveat.

If while a caveat is in force, another person applies for a patent for the same invention, the caveator will be entitled to notice to file his application and to go into interference with the other applicant, for the purpose of proving priority of invention, and of obtaining the patent if he succeed. He must file his application within three months from the day on which the notice to him is deposited in the post-office at Washington, adding the regular time for the transmission of the same to him. The day when the time for filing application expires is mentioned in the notice or indorsed thereon.

This title to notice is the only privilege which a caveat confers. It does not give any exclusive right in an invention, of which the Courts can take cognizance, and therefore does not entitle the caveator to sue parties, who may make, use, or sell his invention.

It is a not uncommon mistake to suppose that caveats confer a *temporary* protection, in the sense that patents afford protection, and misled by this idea, parties have been induced to file caveats where it was against their interest to do so, and when they should instead have made application for letterspatent at once.

Where an invention is complete, and its practicability sufficiently assured, the proper step is to apply for letters-patent.

The expense of a caveat is warranted only when the invention is not quite developed, or where its practicability is so much a matter of doubt, that further experiment requiring some time or publicity, is advisable, or where an inventor, being as yet unprepared to apply for a patent, and requiring time for preparation, has reason to suspect that unscrupulous parties may endeavor to take advantage of the delay to patent the invention as their own.

A caveat need not contain as particular a description of the invention as is requisite in the specification of a patent, still

the description should be sufficiently precise to enable the office to judge whether there is a probable interference, when a subsequent application is filed.

It must not be supposed that any slipshod document is sufficient for the purpose of a caveat.

The cost of filing a caveat through these offices, will be \$12, \$15, or \$20, according to the nature of the invention. Payment, with Government fee of \$10, due prior to filing the papers.

TRADE-MARKS.

The Act of July, 1870, provided for a system of registry of trade-marks in the Patent Office of the United States, and gave to the owners of trade-marks so registered, certain remedies, legal and equitable, for the unlawful use of the same or similar marks by others. The remedies, also, which trademark owners had before the passage of the act, were saved to them.

The benefit of the act is extended to "persons" or "firms" domiciled in the United States, corporations created by the authority of the United States, or of any State or Territory thereof, and persons, firms, or corporations resident or located in any foreign country, which by treaty or convention afford similar privileges to citizens of the United States.

Trade-marks already in use, or such as it is intended to adopt and use, may be registered. It must be borne in mind, however, that there is no analogy between patents for invention and certificates of registry of trade-marks; that the latter are *not* grants, do not *confer* any right of property, but are simply certificates of a recorded claim to such right.

The statute which provided this system of registry did not undertake to create any new law as to the nature and essentials of trade-mark property. The basis of that property, now, as before the Act, consists in adoption of the mark appropriated, and by adoption is meant an actual application of the mark, in the course of trade, to the class of goods for which it has been selected. Origination or invention has nothing whatever to do with the matter; the question of

priority in a trade-mark controversy is not who first conceived or designed the mark, or first *intended* to adopt it, but who first *did* adopt it, by applying it to the particular class of goods. It will be understood, then, that as a certificate of registry is not a grant, it cannot operate to secure a mark which has not been adopted, but which it is merely *intended* to adopt. Security can rest only upon priority of adoption.

The Act authorizes the registry of "lawful" trade-marks, that is, of marks having those qualities which the law as evidenced in judicial precedents, has recognized as requisite for a proper trade-mark. It is not an easy matter, and in the space at our disposal would be altogether impossible, to state any general rule or rules for determining the "lawfulness" of a trade-mark. It may be stated, however, that the name of a person, firm, or corporation, cannot alone, i.e., unaccompanied by a mark sufficient to distinguish it from the same name when used by others, constitute a trade-mark; nor, as a rule, can a name which is strictly descriptive or simply indicative of the nature of the article to which it is applied. The mark should be arbitrary, with the only purpose of indicating the origin or ownership of the goods.

The subject of trade-marks is one requiring no little knowledge and experience for its proper treatment, and the documents for registration of a mark cannot be too carefully prepared.

The benefit of registry extends to the term of 30 years, and may be renewed for a further term of 30 years.

The Government fee for registration is \$25. For our services in attending to this class of cases, we charge \$15.

LECAL BRANCH OF THE BUSINESS.

Patents always have been, and always must be, subjects for legal controversies. The anxiety on the one hand of the patentee to sustain a valuable monopoly, and the activity of infringers, on the other hand, must always create such a clashing of interests, that much of the time of the United States courts, and some of the best legal talent in the country, will always be demanded for the settlement of disputes relating to patents.

Of the many solicitors of patents, by far the largest proportion restrict their duties to the making of applications for patents, and consider their duties at an end when these are obtained; others extend their duties to prosecution of interference, extension, and appeal cases before the Patent Office, and a few undertake the conduct of patent cases before the courts, many eminent lawyers being extensively engaged in this duty, and declining that of soliciting patents.

The relationship between these branches of the profession should always be of the most intimate character, for the more they are separated the worse will it be for inventors.

While mechanical and scientific knowledge, for instance, are indispensable acquirements for those who undertake the preparation of specifications, a knowledge of patent law and a familiarity with the interpretations of the courts must be brought to bear on the same documents to attain a satisfactory result. On the other hand, the man who has nothing but legal acquirements to bring into play, in the preparation of specifications, is quite as likely to work an injury to his clients as the uneducated mechanic.

Again, when a patentee meets with the difficulties, to which all patentees are liable, the man who procured the patent ought to be most familiar with the merits of the case, and in the best position to do justice to it, providing he has the necessary legal ability. Then again, the transmission of a contested case from one professional man to another, although in some instances indispensable, always involves increased expense.

It has been the aim of the founder of this establishment from the outset, in 1853, to so organize it that he could be in a position to aid in securing the rights of inventors before the Courts, and especially to protect such patents as he secured.

From the first every effort has been made to combine in these offices the duties of procuring United States and foreign patents, defending patents before the Courts, and prosecuting all other patent law business; and much time has been consumed, and money expended, in acquiring that experience and those facilities by which alone the end aimed at could be accomplished.

The best proof of the success which has attended these efforts, will be the list of contested cases in which we have acted as counsel, and which will be given hereafter.

AGREEMENTS, POWER OF ATTORNEY, ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.

Ordinary assignments, grants or licenses are so very simple and inartificial as to induce the belief in some minds that "anything will do" in dealing with patent property. It is a curious anomaly in the history of patents that those building great expectations on their possession, will be content to rest that possession upon wretched scrawls, which would not be accepted in connection with any other property. Those interested in such matters may be assured that, for security in the enjoyment of their rights, they must look well to the legal sufficiency of their instruments of title.

These legal documents are so various in character that it would be impossible to give any scale of charges.

REPORTS AS TO THE VALIDITY OF PATENTS.

Our senior partner has been for many years actively engaged in this duty, and, with the view of performing it efficiently, has accumulated a valuable library of reference, alluded to elsewhere.

Many investigations of this class, made prior to commencing suit, or with the view of meeting charges of infringement, demand elaborate research and consume much time, while opinions can be arrived at in other cases with comparatively little trouble; hence no specific charges can be here given for the performance of such duties.

It is certain that neither suit for infringment, nor the active defence of such suit, should be entered upon without a thorough examination of the state of the art to which the invention relates, and an exhaustive research of all prior patents directly or indirectly connected with the subject in dispute. This duty is one demanding both practical and theoretical experience in the industrial arts, and a familiarity with authorities treating on different practical and scientific subjects; hence the duty at this establishment mainly devolves upon the senior partner.

EXTENSIONS.

The duties appertaining to the procuring of extensions are of a character demanding exactitude, punctuality, and experience, whether the applications for extensions are opposed or not. In ordinary unopposed cases we charge \$150, including the first Government fee of \$50. When the proper evidence can be readily collected, and no printing and no special visits to Washington are required, we demand no additional fee; the application may, however, meet with such adverse opinions of the officers of the Patent Office as to require oral arguments, or additional papers; or the testimony may be complicated and difficult to obtain, and the printing of testimony, arguments, &c., may be required, in any of which cases additional fees, proportionate to the extent of duties performed, will be required.

As a proof that we possess the necessary experience to attend to the duties demanded in extension cases, we here give a list of important patents for which we have obtained extensions during the last few years.

EXTENSIONS OF PATENTS PROCURED.

W. & M. Stratton, Philadelphia, Gas apparatus.	
CHRISTIAN SHARP, " Sharp's breech-loader.	
L. B. Flanders, " Replacing cars.	
J. McCarty, Reading, Scarfing skelps.	
" Manufacturing tubes.	
E. SPAIN, Philadelphia, Churns.	
F. C. LOWTHORP, Trenton, Truss frame bridges.	
J. GRIFFEN, Phœnixville, Phœnix beam.	
S. G. Lewis, Philadelphia, Platform scale.	
D. H. STEVENS, Conn Carpenter's rule.	
H. H. THAYER, Boston, Axle box.	
J. A. WOODBURY, Boston, Planing machine.	
DISSTON & MORSE, Philadelphia, Hand-saws.	
S. R. SMITH, " Car wheel.	
J. A. WOODBURY, Boston, Rotary cutter.	
HIRAM SMITH, Philadelphia, Hand-saws.	
D. D. Lewis, " Railroad frog.	
W. E. Lockwood, " Collars and cuffs.	
"	
A. P. Winslow, Cleveland, Car roof.	
G. C. Jennison, Philadelphia, Baker's oven.	
CHRISTIAN SHARP, " Repeating firearm.	
N. & A. MIDDLETON (DAVIS), Philadelphia, . Car spring.	
Joseph Harrison, Jr., " . Steam boiler.	,
J. & G. Fritz, Bethlehem, Rolling mill.	

CONTESTED CASES.

OPPOSED EXTENSIONS.

No legal controversies demand more prompt and energetic action and more elaborate research than those relating to opposed extensions, as the time wherein to procure the necessary testimony, and to prepare printed briefs, is short and cannot be extended beyond given limits. In many cases patents of immense value are sought to be extended, and large sums are placed at the disposal of counsel for procuring extensions, while equally large sums are at the disposal of counsel engaged by manufacturers who have combined to resist the extension.

The struggle in such cases, although a comparatively brief one, is always fierce, especially on the side of the opposers. Such exhaustive researches into the prior state of the art, such a thorough display of expert testimony is demanded, and so many intricate duties have to be accomplished, in a short space of time, that there are very few practitioners who devote themselves to this branch of patent law practice.

The prosecution of such cases, either on the part of the the petitioners or that of remonstrants, necessarily demands large expenditures, the amount of which must so vary that an approximate estimate to meet all cases would be impossible.

Having given above a list of extensions we have procured, some of them having been opposed, we here give a list of a few well-known cases in which we have been successfully engaged against the grant of extensions.

Anson Atwood, . . . Patent for Gas-burning stove.

J. A. Cutting, . . . " Bromide composition for photography

CHAS. BRAMWHITE, . . " Sealing cans.

J. L. Mason, " Threading screw caps.

S. B. Sexton, . . . " Illuminating stove.

W. W. LYMAN, . . . " Fruit can.

INTERFERENCES

"Are proceedings instituted for the purpose of determining the question of priority of invention between two or more parties, claiming the same patentable invention."

An interference will be declared in the following cases:

First. When two or more parties have applications before the office at the same time, and their respective claims conflict in whole or in part.

Second. When two or more applications are pending at the same time, in each of which a like patentable invention is shown or described, and claimed in one, though not specifically claimed in all of them.

Third. When an applicant having been rejected upon an unexpired patent, claims to have made the invention before the patentee.

Fourth. When an applicant for a reissue embraces in his amended specification any new or additional description of his invention, or enlarges his claim, or makes a new one, and thereby includes therein anything which has been claimed or shown in any patent granted subsequent to the date of his original application, or in any pending application; provided, there is reason to suppose that such subsequent applicant or patentee may be the first inventor.

The rules regarding the conduct of interference cases, are of such a character, and the appeals so numerous, that they cannot be prosecuted without much sacrifice of time and money, not to mention harassment of mind and neglect of business. A timely and candid conference between the contestants, or between their counsel, may in many cases obviate the necessity of tedious and expensive litigation.

CASES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES COURTS.

It would be entirely out of place in a business pamphlet to enter upon a lengthy account of proceedings relating to patents before the United States courts; for a brief summary of such matter we would refer to the chapter in "Howson's American Patent System," entitled "Remedies for Infringements." As regards our own practice before the courts, we have only to say that our senior partner has for many years been engaged in the preparation of cases for trial, and has been associated with prominent counsel in many cases of importance, while our junior has been especially trained to that branch of the profession which relates to contested cases, and as a member of the bar has been actively engaged during the past seven years as counsel in patent controversies.

It would be fruitless to attempt to give even approximate estimates of the cost of prosecuting or defending suits for infringement.

It has been our good fortune to retain as prominent clients during a lengthened practice, many of the inventors and manufacturers, whose names appear at the conclusion of this pamphlet, and we are in the habit of treating such clients and others who transact their patent business with us liberally whenever they require our services in contested cases; we can afford to do this, for the simple reason that familiarity with the patent matters of these clients enables us to act on their behalf, in legal controversies, without that preparation which cases entirely new to us might demand.

As a proof of our experience in the management of contested cases generally, we here give a list of several in which we have been successfully engaged:

* Francis e	t al v. Mahn	,					U.S.	Court, Pa.,	For defendant.
6.6	v. Mellor	et a	ıl,				"	"	"
Insull v. A	bbott & Nobl	le,						6.6	
* Stuart &	Peterson v. S	har	ıtz	&	Ke	ely,	"	6.6	" plaintiff.
* Carr v. I	Bourne, .						"	66	"
* Adamson	v. Dietrich,						"	66	"
* Couch v.	Bartholf, .						Inter	ference,	Sewing machines.
* Lightfoot	v. Eastman,							"	Currying leather.
* Keene v .	Dixon, .							"	Pulp boiler.
* Houghton	v. Imlay,						4		Fruit jar.
	Rowley, .							"	"
	. Mason, .							6.6	"

* Stuart & Peterson v.	Bibb,		. I	nterfer	ence,		Stoves.
Fowler v. Cook,				"			Propeller.
Brick v. Cameron, .				"			Gas exhauster.
Rehfus v. Chabot, .							Sewing machines.
Barney v. Philips and (Colema	ın, .		"			Car seats.
Buckingham v. Codma	n, .			6.6			Tooth plugger.
France v. Reed,				6.6			Shutter fastener.
Pennock v. Brough, .				6.6			Rolling mill.
Sternberger v. Thalhei	mer &	Hirsh	ι,				Trade-mark,
* Hannen v. Zindgraft,				*			White lead.
* Millinger v. Zindgraf	ft, .						Sheet lead.
Lobdell & Stewart v. 1	Porter	& Ja	ckson,				Chilled rolls.
* David Eynon Appeal	to Co	mmiss	sioner	under	Rule	44.	
*S. Bevan's "		""			4.6	66	
*F. Tully's "		66			4.4	"	
*J. L. Mason's "	to Sup	reme	Court	, Distr	ict of	Co	lumbia.
*S. B. Rowley's "	6	6	"	6.6			"

Pamphlets relating to all of the cases marked thus * have been retained, and can be furnished to clients who have an interest in such matters.

EUROPEAN PATENTS.

A pamphlet entitled "Particulars Relating to and Cost of Procuring Foreign Patents," can be obtained at these offices, hence it will suffice to give here the cost of patents in England, France, and Belgium, the three countries in which more patents are granted to American inventors than in any other European states.

Great Britain, from \$300 to \$340 payable in advance, or \$120 in advance, balance in three and a half months.

France, . . . \$100 to \$120 in advance.

Belgium, . . . 90 to 110 "

The above sums, which are payable in United States currency, include both agency and Government fees, and everything necessary to complete the patent.

When an invention is of such value as to suggest the propriety of protecting it abroad, it is advisable to mail the papers from this country before the patent has issued here, so as to forestall the acts of pirates who are in the habit of sending printed copies of valuable patents abroad.

Since the establishment of these offices twenty years ago, we have invariably adhered to the rule of employing none but gentlemen of the highest professional standing to represent us abroad, preferring to pay the fees which the value of their services can command, to running such risks as are foreshadowed in the lower charges of men of lower standing.

CANADA PATENTS.

Having completed satisfactory arrangements for securing patents in Canada, under the new law of that country, we are prepared to procure such patents at a cost of \$75, including both agency and Government fees.

SPECULATING IN PATENTS.

The proprietors of these offices will not engage in the pur chase and sale of patents, nor speculate personally in patent property; nor do they permit any of their employés to become applicants for, or to become directly or indirectly interested, pecuniarily, in patents, or to transact any business relating to the same on their own account.

FACILITIES

FOR

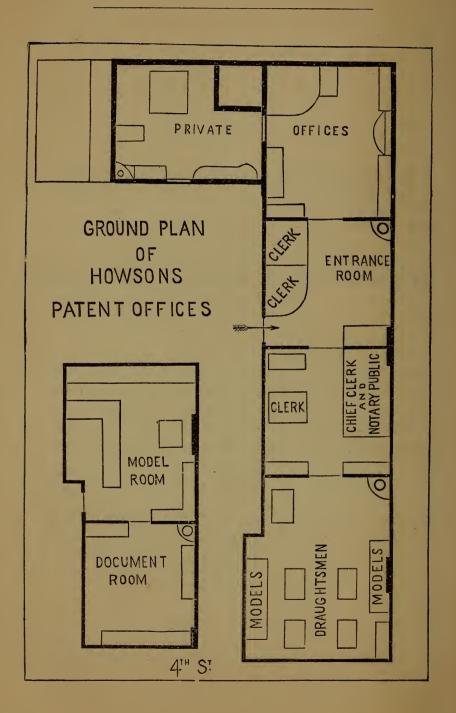
TRANSACTING PATENT BUSINESS

AT

HOWSONS' PATENT OFFICES.

The management of offices in which the soliciting of American and foreign patents is combined with the prosecution of litigated cases before the courts, must necessarily involve multifarious duties, which, owing to the large number of patents issued, have of late years become more and more intricate, hence prudent inventors will always inquire not only as to the experience and standing of those who undertake the performance of these duties, but will further inquire into the facilities, without which they cannot be effectually performed.

With the view of supplying this information, we devote a small portion of this pamphlet to a brief description of our establishment and its surroundings, and we may remark that from the founding of this house in 1853, to the present time, a very large proportion of the profits derived from the business has been devoted to the enhancement of the facilities for its proper conduct; to the training and maintenance of efficient assistants; and to the, collection, at great expense, of a library of reference, which is believed to be the most complete private patent library in the country.



THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICES.



In 1868 it was found that the offices in Forrest Place, then occupied by the senior of this firm, were far too small for the proper management of the business, hence it was determined to remove to more commodious quarters, and at the same time to open a branch office in Washington. The new structure, Forrest buildings, 119 South Fourth Street, then projected by the trustees of the Forrest estate, afforded the most favorable opportunity for pre-arranging the suit of five large rooms in

the second story of the right wing of the building.

The desired arrangement was carried into effect during the erection of the building. It will only be necessary to direct attention to the annexed ground plan of these offices to show how available they are for the general supervision of employés, and at the same time for the maintenance of that privacy and secrecy which the nature of the business so imperatively demands.

It will be seen that, independently of the five rooms in the second story occupied by our firm for the usual routine of business, two additional rooms in the upper story of the building are devoted to the storing of models, printed documents, &c.

CLERKS.

A peculiar feature of this establishment is the invariable refusal to employ, in responsible positions, any but those who have been trained in the offices from boyhood. Of the eleven assistants and clerks attached to the Philadelphia and Washington offices, all, including the superintendent of the latter offices and the senior clerk of the principal offices in Philadelphia, have been trained under the supervision of the head of the firm.

It will scarcely be necessary to remark that by this plan the most reliable assistants are secured, and that the special capacity of different young men for special duties can always be determined. The clerks of the establishment are not permitted, excepting on special occasions, to receive visits at the office on private business of their own, nor are they permitted at any time to transact private patent business, on their own account or on that of any friends or acquaintances.

OFFICE HOURS.

It is the duty of the clerks of the office to be in attendance from nine o'clock A.M. to half past five P.M., with an intermission of half an hour.

During these hours one of the two members of the firm will be present to attend to clients, excepting in emergencies, which demand the absence of both, when the senior clerk will be ready to attend to the ordinary routine business of the office.

Mr. Howson, Senior, has been compelled to restrict his office hours from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., in order that he may have reasonable time at his disposal for the preparation, revision, and amendment of specifications, and for other duties the character of which demands privacy; he will, however, be ready to meet clients for consultations relating to cases of a difficult and intricate character, at his private residence in the afternoon or evening, with the understanding that such visits must always be by special appointment. The attendance of the senior partner at Washington is frequently demanded, but during his absence, which will be always of brief duration, any matters demanding his special personal attention will be promptly communicated to him.

The office hours of Mr. Howson, Junior, are from 10 A.M., to 5 P.M.; his absence, however, during a portion of the day is frequently demanded by litigated cases in which his services are required; and the necessity of arguing cases before the Patent Office and the courts, and of taking testimony at distant points, may require an absence of several consecutive days, on which occasions Mr. Howson, Senior, will endeavor to be in attendance at the office.

CLIENTS AND OTHER VISITORS.

There will always be in attendance a clerk ready to answer all ordinary questions of clients, relating to the progress of

their cases; and visitors requiring general information relating to patents, will be cheerfully attended to, and can be furnished with a copy of any claim or other general information without charge, and can examine any of the official publications with which the office is plentifully furnished.

DRAWINGS.

The drawings made at this establishment have secured official commendation, one of the drawings made here having been selected as a sample, which is forwarded to inquirers by the Patent Office.

Whenever circumstances demand it, a competent draughtsman will be sent to any point required, with the view of copying any machine for which an application for a patent is about to be made.

MODELS.

Recent regulations of the Patent Office demand a model in every case. In complying with this request, inventors are apt to incur unnecessary expense in making models of a more elaborate character than is necessary. We would suggest, therefore, that clients who are not familiar with the absolute requirements of the office, in respect to models, will explain their inventions, and receive such instructions as to making the model as will insure the saving of expense. When clients request it we will furnish models made under our own supervision.

THE WASHINGTON BRANCH OFFICE.



This is situated in Seventh Street, directly opposite to and but a few doors from the United States Patent Office, to the records of which access may be had at any time during official business hours.

Our Washington office is an essential part of the principal offices in this city, and is devoted exclusively to the business of the firm, and should not therefore be confounded with the so-called branch offices which are so prominently advertised, but which are in reality

offices for transacting the Washington business of numbers of

agents in different parts of the country. All business intrusted to us remains under our own control, from first to last, hence that indispensable secrecy is maintained, which cannot be relied upon where business is transferred to irresponsible practitioners at Washington, who have their own clients to look to, and have to attend to the clients of other agents. The superintendent of our Washington office is a gentleman who has been connected with this establishment for many years, and who is thoroughly familiar with the inner workings of the Patent Office. Inventors visiting Washington can have their applications prepared at the branch office, should they desire it, and can have every attention paid to their interests there.

LIBRARY.

A library, believed to be the most extensive private patent library of reference in the country, is an especial feature of this establishment.



It consists of over 2500 volumes, the books being such as to determine the history and progress of the industrial arts, and give all necessary information relating to inventions, patents, &c. This library has been collected with the view of

conducting the many researches we are called upon to prosecute, to aid us in contested cases, and to give ready advice to inventors. The bulk of the library is at the residence of our senior partner, and is contained in a room especially built for its reception; but any of the books will, at the request of clients, be brought to the office for perusal.

In no case, however, will clients or others be permitted to take away the books. The necessity of adopting this stringent rule will be apparent, for the books being works of reference, may be required at any time, and moreover it is next to impossible to replace, in case of loss, volumes of valuable serials.

The books will of course be at the service of any counsel with whom we may be associated in contested cases.

CERTIFICATES.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, Oct. 2d, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I take this occasion to state to you, that for several years past I have been acquainted with the manner in which you have conducted your business as a Patent Solicitor. This has always been highly creditable to yourself and satisfactory to the Patent Office. You understood your cases well, and presented them in that intelligible form which generally insured success. I forward this certificate, hoping that it may be serviceable to you in continuing to find that employment in your profession, to which your intelligence, industry, and courteous bearing so justly entitle you.

Yours, very truly,

CHARLES MASON,

HENRY HOWSON, ESQ.

Late Commissioner of Patents.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOL MANUFACTURERS,

55 SUMMER ST., BOSTON, MASS., Oct. 6th, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: It gives me great pleasure to give my testimony as to the manner in which you have conducted your business as a Solicitor of Patents, during the four years that I was Chief Clerk and Executive Officer of the U.S. Patent Office, and for a considerable period Acting Commissioner.

During that time your business at the Patent Office was surpassed in extent by but one firm in New York. The papers presented by you, specifications, drawings, correspondence, &c., were invariably models of neatness, accuracy, and legal precision. They were frequently pointed out to younger solicitors as among the best examples and precedents for practice in the office. Your intercourse with the office was so conducted that all the rights of your clients were secured without personal controversy. With

the best opportunities for judging, I do not hesitate to say that your thorough knowledge of mechanics and patent law places you in the front rank of Solicitors of Patents in the United States.

Very truly yours,

JOHN L. HAYES,

Late Chief Clerk and Executive Officer U. S. Patent Office. H. Howson, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 20th, 1865.

I fully and cheerfully indorse the statement made by Mr. Hayes in the above letter, and commend Mr. Howson to the patronage of the inventors of the country.

D. P. HOLLOWAY,
Late Commissioner of Patents.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 16th 1871.

GENTLEMEN: I take great pleasure in testifying to the ability and promptness with which you conducted your business before the Patent Office while I was Commissioner. Your cases were thoroughly, accurately, and neatly prepared, well presented, and strongly urged. I wish you every success in your business.

Very truly yours,

S. S. FISHER.

Messrs. H. Howson & Son, Philadelphia, Pa.

REFERENCES.

Furman Sheppard, Esq., .	Attorney-at-law,	Philadelphia.
Theodore Cuyler, Esq.,		"
Hon. F. C. Brewster,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4.6
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Warden, Frew & Co.,	Shippers,	6 6
	Brokers,	
J. Rice, Esq.,	Builder,	" "
Abram Hart, Esq.,		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
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		66
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J. Rinek, Esq.,	Cordage,	"
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W. A. Drown & Co.,		
Hirsch & Co.,		6.6
Mellor & Rittenhouse,		"
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	. Can Manufacturer,	
	Woollen Machinery,	
	e Sewing Machine Co.,	
	. Car Springs,	
W. & H. Rowland,		44
	Iron Works,	
	. Sharps' Firearms,	
S. B. Rowley, Esq.,		
	. Military Goods, &c.,	
	Locomotives,	
	. Paints,	
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Seltzer & Fink,		
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Winslow, N. J.
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		"
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Joshua Comly, Esq.,		
Dialogue & Wood,		
James Molyneux, Esq., .	_	
Morgan & Orr,		
Stokes & Parrish,		"
Van Haagen & Co.,		"
Geo. C. Howard, Esq.,		66
L. B. Flanders, Esq.,		66
P. & G. M. Mills,	"	"
H. W. Butterworth & Son,	"	6.6
Jas. Eccles, Esq.,		6.6
Mellor & Oram,	£ 6	6.6
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The American machine oo.,	. "	
The American Photo-Relief Co.,		
Isaac A. Gregg, Esq., Brick Machines, .		
H. Lauth, Esq., Sewing Machine Sta	ands,.	
Mitchell & Tate, Coverlet Makers, .		
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David Brooke, Esq., Insulators,	•	
Steele & Condict, Engineers, &c.,		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		

PAMPHLETS RELATING TO LITIGATED CASES.

Inventors and others interested in contests relating to Patents can obtain, on application, pamphlets relating to the following cases successfully conducted at these Offices:

APPEALS TO COMMISSIONER IN PERSON.

Patentability	of C	ombinations of I	Machinery,Eynon's Appeal.
Specifications	and	Claims,	Bevan's Appeal.
"	"	"	Tully's Appeal.

INTERFERENCES.

Fire-place Stoves,	Stuart & Peterson v. Bibb.
Machine for Making Sheet Lead,	Hannen v. Zindgraft.
α α	Millinger v. Zindgraft.
Gas Exhausting Machine,	Brick v. Cameron.
Sewing Machine,	Couch v. Bartholf.
Design for Fruit Jar,	Rowley v. Houghton.
Pulp Boiler,	•

EXTENSIONS OBTAINED.

Car Spring,	N. & A. Middleton.
Beams and Girders,	
Paper Collars,	•

EXTENSIONS SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED.

Photography,	Cutting's Patent. 💈
Illuminated Stoves,	Sexton's Patent.
Illuminated Stoves,	Lyman's Patent.
Sealing Cans,	

CASES SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED BEFORE U. S. COURTS.

Printers' Rollers,	Francis & Loutrel v. Miller & Rittenhouse.
Tanning Leather,	
Tempering Steel Ribs,	Carr v. Bowen and others.
Stove Shields,	Stuart & Peterson v. Shantz & Keeley.
	Mason v. Rowley, Supreme Court, D. C.
Fruit Jar.	Rowley v. Mason, Supreme Court, D. C.



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United States and Foreign
Patent and Patent Law

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OFFICES.

Bugineer & Soliritor off Patents

E. Kowson, Allorney at Kom, and Counsel in Patent Cases. Authors of "An Inquiry into the Principles, Effect and Present State of the American Patent System."

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states and foreign patents, for defending patents before the U.S. In this actablichment are combined all the facilities for procuring UNITED COURTS, and the PROSECUTION OF ALL OTHER PATENT LAW BUSINESS.